

## The childcare support system in several scientific meetings in Japan

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The Astronomical Society of Japan had set the first nursery room for the duration of the 1997 annual meeting in the runup to all earth science societies in Japan. Following the Astronomical Society's example, we formed a voluntary planning committee of setting a nursery room duration of the 1998 science meeting in the early 1997. We have been requesting and arranging several childcare facilities to be made available for many earth science meetings since then. We anticipate that some prospective attendees will be unable to attend unless their children can be looked after. For example of a childcare system, we recommend the following details regarding childcare facilities, based on a similar service provided annually at the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco:

1) Full coverage of meeting dates and time, 2) Recommended service provider: Baby sitting service companies, which offered professional child care services for children aged 1 to 6 years.

3) Insurance: Registration children must be required to take out accident insurance.

4) Meals: Parents feed their children at lunchtime. 5) Cost to parents: Parents would be required to pay \$20.00 to \$3.00 per hour for childcare services, provided that the cost of room hire is officially supported. 6) Liability: Each user is expected to assume responsibility for the childcare services rendered.

We introduce 8-year activities of childcares of the joint meeting, the Seismological Society Fall meeting, the Geological Society meeting, and WPGM2000, IUGG2003, and other earth science meetings in Japan.